

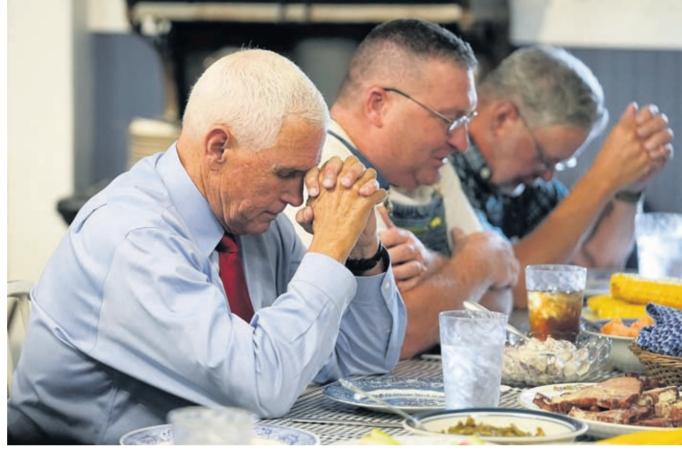
Mike Pence is a central figure in his former boss's indictment

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Pence fought the Department of Justice in court to try to avoid testifying against his former boss. But the former vice president plays a central role in a new federal indictment unsealed Tuesday that outlines the first criminal charges against Donald Trump connected to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

The 45-page indictment is informed, in part, by contemporaneous notes that Pence kept of their conversations in the days leading up to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, as Trump tried to pressure Pence to go along with his desperate — and prosecutors say illegal — scheme to keep the two men in power.

Among the discussions: An episode in which Trump is alleged to have told Pence that he was "too honest" for rejecting Trump's false claims that Pence had the power to overturn the vote. "Bottom line - won every state by 100,000s of votes," Trump said in another conversation, according to the indictment.



Republican presidential candidate and former Vice President Mike Pence prays before lunch during a stop at the Indiana State Fair, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2







Mike Pence is a central figure in his former boss's indictment

Continued from Front

Pence, who is among a crowded field of Republicans now challenging Trump for the 2024 presidential nomination, has spent much of his nascent campaign defending his decision to defy Trump. He launched his bid with a firm denunciation of his twotime running mate, saying Trump had "demanded I choose between him and our Constitution. Now voters will be faced with the same choice."

Still, Pence said last month that he did not believe Trump had broken the law in connection with Jan. 6 and has repeatedly questioned the Department of Justice's motivations for investigating him.

On Tuesday night, he hit anew on his belief that Trump was unfit to serve again. "Today's indictment serves as an important reminder: Anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States," he said in a statement. "Our country is more important than one man. Our Constitution is more important than any one man's career." At a campaign stop Wednesday at the Indiana State Fair, Pence, who previously served as the state's governor, said he had "hoped it wouldn't come to this," but believed that



Republican presidential candidate and former Vice President Mike Pence speaks during a stop at the Indiana State Fair, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

he had "done his duty" that day.

"Sadly the president was surrounded by a group of crackpot lawyers that kept telling him what his itching ears wanted to hear," he said. "The president ultimately continued to demand that I choose him over the Constitution."

Despite his once-prominent position as Trump's No. 2, Pence has struggled to gain traction in his presidential campaign. Many of the former president's most loyal supporters still blame him for Trump's loss, believing Trump's false claims that he could have used his ceremonial role overseeing the counting of the Electoral College votes on Jan. 6 to prevent Democrat Joe Biden from becoming president.

Trump critics, on the other hand, fault Pence as being complicit in Trump's most controversial actions and standing by his side for so many years. Until the insurrection, Pence had been an extraordinarily loyal defender of his former boss.

With just three weeks until the first 2024 GOP presidential debate, it's unclear if Pence will even qualify to make the stage. He has yet to meet the donor minimum, though he has reached the polling thresh-

Washington, Pence had refused to testify before the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack, dismissing the probe as politicized. And he fought a subpoena demanding he testify before a grand jury, arguing that, because he was serving on Jan. 6 as president of the Senate, he was protected under the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause from being forced to testify. That provision is intended to protect members of Congress from questioning

about official legislative acts.

Pence eventually complied when a judge refused to block his appearance, but said he wouldn't be forced to answer questions related to his role as Senate president.

Trump's lawyers had objected, too, citing executive privilege concerns.

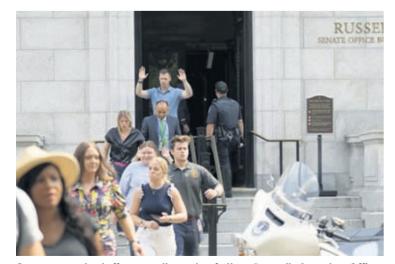
Trump's new indictment outlines his and his allies' frantic efforts to remain in power. After first trying to persuade state lawmakers to reject certifying Biden's win, it says, they focused on Jan. 6 and "sought to enlist the Vice President to use his ceremonial role at the certification to fraudulently alter the election results."

They tried to persuade him to accept slates of fake electors or to reject states' electoral votes and send them back to state legislatures for further review, the indictment says.

That effort included a series of phone calls in late December and early January, including on Christmas Day.

"You know I don't think I have the authority to change the outcome," Pence said during one call with Trump, the indictment says. In another, on New Year's Day, Trump berated Pence, telling him, "You're too honest" — an episode also recounted in Pence's book "So Help Me God."

Police search Senate office buildings after report of active shooter



Government staffers walk out of the Russell Senate Office Building, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington. **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Au- Senate thorities issued a shelter-in- near the U.S. Capitol

office buildings place order and searched Wednesday afternoon af-

ter a 911 call warned of a possible active shooter. But a floor-by-floor search of the three buildings found nothing, and Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said the cause of the security scramble "may have been a bogus call."

"We found nothing concerning," he said. "We Trump supporters attempt got nobody who actually to disrupt the legal proheard shots and certainly no victims." The incident comes amid heightened security concerns created by former President Donald Trump's indictment on charges relating to his attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 presiden-

tial election. Trump is due in federal court Thursday just a few blocks from the Capitol. Manger said Washington's multiple law enforcement agencies had been planning "for a couple weeks now" for a possible indictment and had "a security plan in place" in case ceedings.

The lockdown Wednesday started when local police received a call around 2:30 Wednesday afternoon warning of a "heavyset Hispanic male wearing body armor" inside the Hart Senate Office Building, one of three structures near the Capitol housing offices for senators and their staffs.

Capitol Police began a search, going floor by floor through the massive buildings. Inside the Russell Senate Office Building, officers evacuated the hallways and shouted at people to run outside and away from the building. Outside, tourists watched as dozens of police cars surrounded the area. Staff and journalists working in the building received an email instructing them to take shelter in a locked room, remain quiet and silence all electronics.



RNC boosts polling and fundraising thresholds to qualify for 2nd debate

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) -

Some Republican presidential candidates haven't yet met polling and fundraising thresholds for the first debate of the 2024 cycle, and now the qualifications for making it to the second one will be even higher.

To get to the second debate, scheduled for Sept. 27 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, candidates will need at least 3% in two national polls or will need 3% in one national poll as well as two polls from four of the early-voting states Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina a person familiar with the markers set by the Republican National Committee told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The White House hopefuls must also have at least 50,000 unique donors, with at least 200 of those coming from 20 states or territories, according to the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the qualifications and spoke on the condition of anonymity.



The Republican National Committee logo is shown on the stage as crew members work at the North Charleston Coliseum, Jan. 13, 2016, in North Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

The new thresholds were in three high-quality nafirst reported by Politico. tional polls, or in a mixture

All of the requirements must be met at least two days before the debate, the person said.

Those are increases from the thresholds for the first debate, scheduled for Aug. 23 in Milwaukee.

To get there, candidates have to secure at least 1%

tional polls, or in a mixture of early-state and national polls, as well as secure at least 40,000 unique donors. Meeting those marks has been tough for about half of the broad GOP field.

So far, seven candidates have qualified for the first debate: former President Donald Trump, Florida Gov.

Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum. Two hopefuls, former Vice

Two hopefuls, former Vice President Mike Pence and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, have met the polling requirements but not yet secured the needed number of unique donors.

Others have aimed to up their numbers in creative and potentially legally questionable ways.

Trump, the field's early front-runner, long ago met the polling and fundraising thresholds but has said that he might skip the Milwaukee debate and hold a competing campaign event of his own. The onstage participating candidate with the highest poll numbers will appear in the center, according to the debate details shared with the AP.

An overall RNC requirement to participate in its debates is that candidates pledge to support the eventual GOP nominee and vow not to take part in any debates not sanctioned by the party, which include the general election debate sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.The RNC has declined to release the actual language of the pledge it intends to make candidates sign. 🔲

Appeals court casts doubt on rule to curb use of handgun stabilizing braces

By KEVIN McGILL
Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A
Biden administration rule
requiring registration of

stabilizing braces on handguns is unlikely to survive a legal challenge, a federal appeals court panel said Tuesday as it extended an

Semi-automatic handguns are displayed at shop in New Castle, Pa., March 25, 2020.

Associated Press

order allowing a gun dealer and others challenging the regulation to keep owning, buying and selling the devices without registering them.

The ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans sends the case back to a federal judge in Texas who will consider whether to block enforcement nationwide.

Stabilizing braces attach to the back of a handgun, lengthening it while strapping to the arm. Advocates say the attachments make handguns safer and more accurate.

Gun safety groups say they can be used to, in effect, lengthen a concealable handgun, making it more lethal. They point to mass shootings in which such braces were used.

While gun control advocates back the registration requirement as a needed curb on use of the braces, two Texas gun owners, a gun rights group and a gun dealer filed a lawsuit challenging the law.

The Texas-based federal judge presiding in the case refused to block the rule, which required registration of the devices and payment of a fee. But in May, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a temporary block of the rule as it applied to the plaintiffs, their customers and members.

Three 5th Circuit judges

heard arguments in June. On Tuesday, the panel voted 2-1 to extend the block on enforcement for 60 days and send the case back to U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor in Texas. The majority said the challengers were likely to succeed with their argument that the administration failed to comply with the federal Administrative Procedure Act in adopting the rule. It said O'Connor should review that aspect of his original ruling, other issues brought up in the challenge and the scope of any remedies including whether the block on enforcement should apply nationwide.



Georgia prosecutors are suing to strike down a new state law

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — Four district attorneys in Georgia are asking a judge to strike down a law creating a commission to discipline and remove state prosecutors, arguing it violates the U.S. and Georgia constitutions. The attack on Georgia's Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission, filed Wednesday in Fulton County Superior Court in Atlanta, comes after Republicans pushed through a law creating the panel earlier this year. Republican Gov. Brian Kemp pledged when he signed the law that it would curb "far-left prosecutors" who are "making our communities less safe." Sherry Boston, the district attorney in the overwhelmingly Democratic Atlanta suburb of DeKalb County and the lead plaintiff, called the issue "bigger than Georgia."

"We are talking about prosecutorial discretion and prosecutorial independence, both of which have been solidly under assault the last few years," Boston told The Associated Press. Like GOP candidates nationwide, Kemp ran anticrime campaigns in 2022, accusing Democrats of coddling criminals. They are pushing back after some progressive prosecu-



DeKalb County District Attorney Sherry Boston discusses a lawsuit that seeks to strike down a Georgia law restricting prosecutors on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023 in Decatur, Ga.

Associated Press

tors have brought fewer drug possession cases and sought shorter prison sentences. It's been "incredibly convenient" for Republicans to oppose progressive prosecutors, said University of North Carolina law professor Carissa Hessick, who directs the Prosecutors and Politics Project. Similar efforts have taken place in Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Florida.

"As the progressive prosecution movement gained

national prominence, I think it was an easy target for folks on the right, especially once there was an uptick in certain crimes in certain cities," Hessick said. The Georgia law raises fundamental questions about prosecutorial discretion. That bedrock of the American judicial system says a prosecutor decides what charges to bring and how heavy of a sentence to seek. Chris Carr, Georgia's Republican attorney general, said he would defend

the law. "Unfortunately, some DAs have embraced the progressive movement across the nation of refusing to enforce the law. That is a dereliction of duty, and as a result, Georgia's communities suffer," Carr wrote on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

Besides Boston, district attorneys challenging Georgia's law include Flynn Broady of suburban Atlanta's Cobb County, Jared Williams of Augusta and neighboring Burke County,

and Jonathan Adams of Butts, Lamar and Monroe counties south of Atlanta. Adams is a Republican, the others are Democrats.

They say the law oversteps by requiring district attorneys to review every single case on its individual merits. Instead, district attorneys argue they should be able to continue policies rejecting prosecution of whole categories of crimes.

They argue that the governor and the Legislature can't dictate prosecution rules, because the Georgia Constitution places district attorneys in the state's judicial branch, making the law violate the constitutional separation of powers. The mandate to examine low-level offenses also distracts prosecutors from more serious crimes, they say.

"This duty is practically unworkable, limiting district attorneys' ability to define enforcement priorities and approaches and distracting from the prosecution of meritorious cases," the lawsuit states. The lawsuit says the state law will force district attorneys to consider crimes such as adultery, sodomy and fornication. Adams, for example, said that after the law took effect July 1, he revoked his policy requiring magistrates to reject adultery charges.

Pair mortally wounded in shootout with Ohio state troopers

VANDALIA, Ohio (AP) — A police pursuit in Ohio eventually led to the kidnapping of a tractor-trailer driver, spurring another pursuit and a lengthy standoff that culminated in a shootout between two suspects and Ohio state troopers, leaving both suspects mortally wounded.

The initial pursuit began around 1 a.m. Wednesday in London, when a police officer stopped a van. London Police Chief Glenn Nicol said a man and a woman in the van gave the officer false information, then drove away as the officer walked back to his cruiser. The van ultimately stopped



A member of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation looks over a semi-truck that was highjacked from London, Ohio, and stopped near the Dayton International Airport in Dayton, Ohio, early Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

at a truck stop on US 42. The two van occupants got out and were briefly chased on foot by police, including an officer who tried to stop the pair with a stun gun. The male suspect also pointed a gun at the officers but did not fire it, authorities said.

The man and woman then got into a tractor-trailer cab that was unlocked and did not have a trailer attached. The truck driver was in the vehicle at the time, and the truck was soon driven away from the truck stop, hitting a London police cruiser but causing no injuries.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol and officers from other law enforcement agencies

then chased the truck cab through several counties before the pursuit ended in Vandalia on Interstate 70 west, near the Dayton International Airport Access Road. Authorities then negotiated for about four hours with the two suspects before deciding to approach the vehicle in a bid to free the hostage. One of the suspects then fired several shots from a handgun at troopers who returned fire, critically wounding both suspects. No troopers were injured, authorities said. The truck driver who was taken hostage suffered only minor injuries and was treated at a hospital.



European militaries evacuate foreign nationals from Niger

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Foreign nationals lined up outside an airport in Niger's capital to wait for French military evacuation flights Wednesday as defense officials of a regional bloc gathered to discuss how to respond to last week's military coup in the West African nation.

France, Italy and Spain all have announced evacuations of their citizens and other Europeans in the capital, Niamey, following concerns they could become trapped after soldiers detained democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and seized power. The West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to use force to restore Bazoum to power, but the military-ruled governments of two of Niger's neighbors have sided with the coup leaders and warned that they would consider any intervention an act of war.

A two-day meeting of defense chiefs of the 15-member bloc opened Wednesday in Nigeria's capital to discuss next steps. Abdel-Fatau Musah, the ECOWAS commissioner for political affairs, peace and stability, said the meeting would deal with how to "negotiate with the officers in the hostage situation that we find ourselves in the Republic of Niger." ECOWAS on Sunday also announced sanctions against the coup leaders including a block on energy transactions with Niger, which gets up to 90 percent of its power from neighboring Nigeria, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. Power transmission from Nigeria to Niger was cut off as of Tuesday, an official at one of Nigeria's main electricity companies said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the issue. The official did not clarify how much of Niger's power the cut represented, but any cut would further squeeze



French soldiers assist mostly French nationals in a bus waiting to be airlifted back to France on a French military aircraft, at the international Airport in Niamey, Niger, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

citizens in the impoverished country of more than 25 million people.

The U.S. government has yet to announce any decision on evacuation for American forces, diplomats, aid workers and other U.S. citizens in Niger, an important counter-terror base for the United States in the Sahel. Some Americans, however, have left with the help of the Europeans.

France has evacuated 736 people on three flights, including 498 French citizens as well as people from Niger and at least 10 other countries, and fourth flight was being readied, the French Foreign Ministry said. About half of the 1,200 French citizens registered at the French Embassy have asked to be evacuated, the ministry said.

An Italian military aircraft landed in Rome on Wednesday with 99 passengers, including 21 Americans and civilians from other countries, the Italian defense ministry said. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said the flights took place with the permission of the new government.

Germany, which has encouraged its civilians in Niger to evacuate on French flights, said that it does not currently see any need to evacuate the approxi-

mately 100 troops it has in the country, largely connected to the U.N. mission in neighboring Mali.

Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said he spoke Tuesday with the German commander at the air base in Niamey who told him the German forces are in close contact with the Nigerien military. "He told me clearly they are not at all worried about their safety at the moment," Pistorius said.

U.S. officials have stayed engaged in trying to roll back the armed takeover, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling Niger's president late Tuesday to express "continued unwavering support."

A U.S. pullout from Niger would risk Washington's longstanding counter-terror investments in the West African country, including a major air base in Agadez that is key to efforts against armed extremists across the Sahara and Sahel. The United States has roughly 1,000 forces in Niger, and helps train some Nigerien forces. Leaving Niger would also risk yielding the country to the influence of Russia and its Wagner mercenary group, which already has a significant presence in Mali, the Central African Republic, and Sudan.

Before sunrise Wednes-

day, hundreds of people lined up outside the terminal at Niamey's airport hoping to leave, after one of the French flights was canceled the night before. Some slept on the floor, while others watched television or talked on the phone.A passenger who did not want to be named because of fears for personal safety, said they tried to shield their children from what was happening, telling them "just that they're going home." The passenger said they feared reprisal attacks against civilians if Niger's regional neighbors follow through on threats to intervene militarily.

During Tuesday's evacuation flights at the airport, a passenger who also did not want to be named over fears for personal safety said that Nigerien soldiers raised middle fingers at waiting evacuees as the soldiers sped off after escorting an Italian military convoy to the airport.

On Sunday, ECOWAS said it would use force against the junta if it didn't release and reinstate the president within a week. The announcement was immediately rejected by neighboring Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, all of which are run by mutinous soldiers who toppled their governments.



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Canadian PM Trudeau and his wife announce their separation

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, announced Wednesday that they are separating after 18 years of marriage.

The two said in statements posted on Instagram that they made the decision after "many meaningful and difficult conversations." A statement from the prime minister's office said they both have signed a legal separation agreement.

Trudeau, the 51-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous politicians, was sworn into office in 2015. Sophie Trudeau is a former model and TV host. The couple were married in 2005.

Together, they brought star power to the prime minister's office and appeared in the pages of Vogue magazine.

They have three children, 15-year-old Xavier, 14-yearold Ella-Grace and 9-yearold Hadrien.

"As always, we remain a close family with deep love and respect for each oth-



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, arrive at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

er and for everything we have built and will continue to build," the two said on Instagram.

An official familiar with the matter said the children he will continue to live at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa, where he has lived since 2015, and the children will primarily live there to main-

tain stability.

She has played a less visible role in recent years, rarely traveling with the prime minister on official trips. The two were seen together publicly at Canada Day events in Ottawa last month.

"They remain a close family, and Sophie and the

prime minister are focused on raising their kids in a safe, loving and collaborative environment," the statement from Trudeau's office said.

"The family will be together on vacation, beginning next week."

His office requested respect for their privacy.

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Gregoire met as children when she was a classmate of his youngest brother, Michel, and they reconnected as adults when they cohosted a 2003 charity gala. Trudeau is the second prime minister to announce a separation while in office. His father, Pierre Trudeau, and mother, Margaret Trudeau, separated in 1979 and divorced in 1984 during the elder Trudeau's final year in the prime minister's office.

Margaret Trudeau wrote in her memoir that she had a romance with Senator Ted Kennedy.

During a 1977 visit to Washington, D.C. with Pierre, she sat listening to her husband's speech before Congress while feeling "torn between an intense need for him and a longing for Ted Kennedy." Margaret wrote she became infatuated with Kennedy after meeting him a few years earlier. She told Kennedy that he "had not destroyed my marriage but that I had used him to help me destroy a marriage that was already over."

N. Korea calls U.S. human rights envoy a 'political housemaid' in protest of criticisms

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea hurled misogynistic insults Wednesday at a newly confirmed United States special envoy to monitor the country's human rights issues and warned of unspecified security consequences if Washington continues to criticize its human rights conditions.

The statement published by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency described Julie Turner as a "wicked woman" who was picked by the Biden administration as a "political housemaid" to launch groundless attacks on the country's human rights record.

The U.S. Senate confirmed

Turner's appointment July 27. She previously served as the director of East Asia and the Pacific at the State Department.

The statement said the Biden administration's

public criticism of North Korea's human rights situation highlighted its hostility toward Pyongyang in the face of an intensifying nuclear standoff between the countries. KCNA described



A North Korean flag flutters in the wind atop a 160-meter (525-foot) tower in the North's Kijong-dong village near the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone in Paju, South Korea on Sept, 28, 2017.

Associated Press

Turner's past criticisms of North Korea's human rights record as absurd, and said the U.S. "revels in meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and slandering it."

"Turner should know that she was chosen as a political housemaid and scapegoat for the 'human rights' plots to pressure the DPRK, a poor policy set forth by the Biden administration driven into a scrape in the DPRK-U.S. nuclear confrontation," the agency said, using the initials of the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The agency said the continued U.S. criticism on North Korean human rights issues could "backfire on it, spawning severe security issues."

In defiance of Washington last week, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hosted senior delegates from Russia and China at a Pyongyang military parade that showcased his intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland. Analysts say Kim is trying to boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he looks to break away from diplomatic isolation and insert himself into a united front against the United States. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years. The pace of North Korean missile tests and the United States' combined military exercises with South Korea have intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.



Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins





had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circu-

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols and the familiar colors on of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (forkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.







Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where `life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière

flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not

leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night.

The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too". What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit



to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef's Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef's secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional 'cunucu' house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dinning experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at: info@papillonaruba.com or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400 Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm – Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

For all menus and specials visit the website: www.papillonaruba.com.





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Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.



The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscov-



ering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

PIC 3 Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his ter-

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please

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Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for

this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen my thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

"This is work for which you must have a lot of respect. Circus as such implies a lot of risk, we have to give all of ourselves, we need to be in a physical state where you cannot stop training, there needs to be steadfastness; but if you go past the





limit, your body cannot handle it. It seems that during this tour we went over the limit and Diego was injured right when we had to go sign up for the next part of the tour with America's Got Talent. That was frustrating," Yamila explained.

Thanks to their performance in America's Got Talent, they received a lot of offers. However, before that they travelled to Hungary, to the Budapest Circus Festival, and afterwards they decided to return to and remain in Aruba to show their talents up close at home.

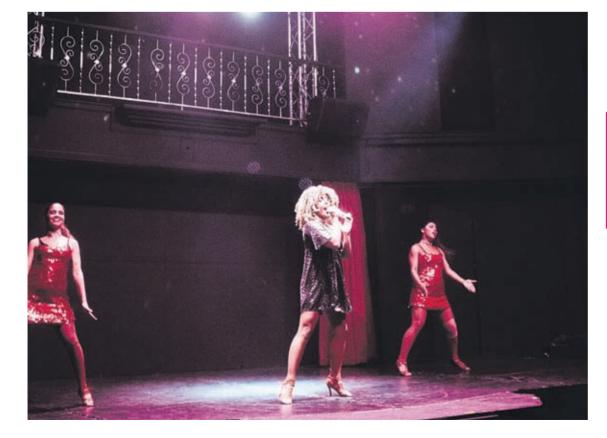
Future projects

Next month in July the group is travelling to Italy to perform at the show "Tu si que vales", and in August they are travelling to France for the program "La France a un Incroyable Talent", completing their travels in November in China, to perform at the Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

Even so, "these are short tours of maximum two weeks, because we are committed to our show in Aruba," Yamila explained.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba.









Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom sings are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. However, be careful not to Just like the previous pair, confuse this sign with a simi-

bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundthe road, is to always yield found in San Nicolas and for traffic on your right. incoming traffic. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of These are some of the bathe intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.



lar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used abouts, sign or arrows on for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite

> sic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.





com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. 🗌

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



CROSSWORD MANE By THOMAS JOSEPH EDGY MEDUSA DENALI **ACROSS** 45 Make PINTA CAFE 1 Uneven fresh MIRAGES hairdo 46 Au naturel A[D|O] O]A[K 5 Hole in EDITION USE RENAL STEW your head DOWN GUSSET 10 Grew dim. 1 Petty APOLLO I R Q N 12 News item quarrels SENSED 2 Asian 13 Cartoon SEEDED LETS capital genre Yesterday's answer 3 Space 14 Overly 17 Refrain 28 Hotel suite visitor virile syllable feature 4 Ring **15** Corn 19 Film-30 Brunched setting item maker 33 Eucalyp-**16** Cad **5** Big rig Burns tus eater 18 Donut. 6 Infamous 22 Swift 34 Come in czar in slang works 35 Baseball's 20 Scot's cap 7 Cravat 8 Falling on 24 Tiny Pee Wee 21 Important 37 Less than opening deaf ears times 25 Fireplace some 9 Sailing 23 Busy org. 38 Was tool worries in April 27 Stock aware 11 Barren 24 Gasp areas holder 42 High hit for air 26 Mimicked 28 Take the 10 12 prize 13 29 Fill up 15 31 Cease 32 Pot 18 20 mender 36 Rodin work 39 Binary digit 40 The fifth 36 element 40 41 Brighten

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Us, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

43

45

43 Without

help

44 Foot parts

ALMVDPM LKJ KGJBX.

MVJGJ ADPOF HJ FBGNUJRR

BUF KVBDR. — FDU

NBGFDUC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINK OF BICYCLES AS RIDEABLE ART THAT CAN JUST ABOUT SAVE THE WORLD. — GRANT PETERSEN

Why are gas prices rising? Experts point to extreme heat and oil production cuts

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Drivers are in for another headache at the pump as U.S. gas prices continue to rise. The national average for gas prices stood at about \$3.78 a gallon on Tuesday about 25 cents higher than that seen one month ago, according to motor club AAA.

While today's prices at the pump remain far lower than they were last year, when energy costs soared worldwide in the months following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, experts say such a jump is unusual.

"Usually it takes a hurricane to move prices that much," said AAA spokesperson Andrew Gross, who said the rise is especially interesting as "fewer people are are fueling up" their cars this summer compared to years past. In the U.S., gasoline prices are highly dependent on crude oil.

West Texas Intermediate crude, the U.S. benchmark, has stayed above \$80 per barrel since Thursday, standing at over \$81 as of Tuesday afternoon.

That marks a \$12 jump since July 3, according to OPIS global head of energy analysis Tom Kloza. There are a few factors causing oil prices to rise, Gross and Kloza say, including global supply production cuts and impacts of this summer's extreme heat on refineries. Here's what you need to know.

WHY ARE GAS PRICES RISING? BLAME THE HEAT AND



The per-gallon price is displayed electronically at the pump of a Shell station Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in Englewood, Colo.

Associated Press

PRODUCTION CUTS

This summer's record temperatures are partly to blame for the rising gas prices.

"While the heat may be keeping people home, it's also keeps refineries from making refined product." Gross explained, noting that refineries are typically designed to operate between 32 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit (0 and 35 degrees Celsius). "They don't like temperature extremes because they're inherently dangerous places... So they dial back the production for safety purposes, but that then constrains supply.

"According to Kloza, there are about 10 million daily barrels of U.S. refining capacity on the Gulf Coast. The heat wave has caused those refineries to operate below normal capacity resulting in a loss of hundreds of thousands of barrels each day, he said.

Still, "the fact that some refineries are struggling has meant that the ones who are able to operate are making really nice profits," he said.

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Tel. 582 4433 Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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With two HGTV shows, Christina Hall finds success in going solo

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

HGTV star Christina Hall promises not to judge your home if you invite her over. "There's literally zero judgment," the TV personality said during a recent interview. "Unless you live in a hoarder house or it's real gross or dirty, I'm not going to care. I've lived in different types of houses and places and situations."

As the star of two shows on the network, "Christina on the Coast" and "Christina in the Country," Hall has a talent for looking at a floorplan and picturing what could be changed to make a space more functional.

She enjoys renovating homes more than choosing decor or staging for prospective buyers.

"I like doing the big projects," Hall explained. "I like taking down the walls and I like figuring out floor plans and how to make something more functional. I love choosing kitchen material, but I don't love choosing furniture."

Hall began her professional career in real estate, where she met her now ex-husband Tarek El Moussa. After spending a few years flipping houses, they got their own HGTV series "Flip or



This image released by HGTV shows Christina Hall host of the home improvement series "Christina in the Country."

Associated Press

Flop," showing the process of buying, improving and selling a home for profit. The two divorced in 2018 but continued to work together until 2022 when "Flip or Flop" aired its final episode after 10 seasons.

Hall first's solo TV venture was "Christina on the Coast," now airing its fourth season. On the show, Hall balances solo projects with her home life in Newport Beach, California. She's a mother of three and is remarried to Josh Hall, a real-

tor and former police officer.Her husband is featured on the shows and Hall says, "I think his answer would be it took a minute" to get comfortable on camera. "I feel like it might be weird to be thrown in with me because it comes naturally and I've been doing it for a long time."

He looks back at old episodes and is like, 'Oh, gosh' and cringing."

The Halls also have a vacation home in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb of Nash-

ville. The TV personality says there's "a misconception" that she spends more time there than she actually does.

When she takes her kids to Tennessee, it's a getaway. "When we go there, we mostly cook at home, have quiet time and we'll be on our property," said Hall.

It also serves as the backdrop for "Christina in the Country." While filming in Tennessee, "We're packing it in," explained Hall.

"We go next week and

we're filming six straight days, we're filming very long days, doing six houses. Then there's something called B stories and it's a background story of the show. Those are long days and I'm not going to lie, when I get back home I'm wiped out. My schedule in California is a bit easier."

Both "Christina" shows have been renewed for new seasons. Hall has also considered expanding her work to encompass a "Christina Coast to Coast-type show" because, "we can go anywhere" but hesitates from thinking too much about it because she's busy as is.

"Logistically, why it works in Tennessee is because we have a home there. We have clothes there. I don't pack. We just go," she said. Hall says a challenge of her job is "everyone wants the same look, especially in California."

"Houses have certain architecture," she explains. "Unless you're re-doing the architecture, you can't have a midcentury modern house and then inside make it a farmhouse."

She's also noticed a difference in aesthetics working on her two shows. "'Country' is more feminine overall, more wallpapers, textures, a bit more glam.

Striking writers and studios will meet this week to discuss restarting negotiations

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Union leaders told striking Hollywood writers Tuesday night that they plan to meet with representatives for studios to discuss restarting negotiations after the first official communication between the two sides since the strike began three months ago.

The Writers Guild of America sent an email to members saying that the head of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents major studios, streaming services and production companies in negotiations,

requested a meeting on Friday to discuss the resumption of contract talks.

"We'll be back in communication with you sometime after the meeting with



Adam Shapiro poses on a picket line outside Netflix studios on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

further information," the email read. "As we've said before, be wary of rumors. Whenever there is important news to share, you will hear it directly from us."

The AMPTP has not yet made a similar overture to union leaders for Hollywood actors, who have been on strike since July 14. "I had hoped that we would already have had some kind of conversations with the industry by now," SAG-AFTRA Executive Director Duncan Crabtree-Ireland told The Associated Press Tuesday. "Obviously, that hasn't happened yet, but I'm optimistic."

Asked about the prospect

of talks with either guild, a spokesperson for the AMPTP in an email said only that "We remain committed to finding a path to mutually beneficial deals with both Unions."

Talks between screenwriters and their employers collapsed on May 1, and the first of the two strikes that have frozen production in Hollywood began a day later.

Issues behind the strike include pay rates amid inflation, the use of smaller writing staffs for shorter seasons of television shows, and control over artificial intelligence in the screenwriting process.

Cycling governing body packing nearly all of its world championships into 11 days

By DAVE SKRETTA **AP Sports Writer**

Tadej Pogačar said his focus was on resting after the Tour de France, where the two-time winner was unable to keep up with Jonas Vingegaard over the final week in the mountains and finished a distant second to his biggest rival in Paris.

Turns out the break didn't last long.

Pogačar confirmed this week that he will line up for Slovenia in the men's road race at the UCI world championships, which begins Thursday in Scotland with the first track events and continues for the next 10 days. It will be the first time that cycling's world governing body holds nearly all of its championships at one time and in one place, which UCI President David Lappartient hopes will build some momentum for the sport heading into next year's Paris Olympics.

The course for the men's road race hardly suits Pogačar's climbing abil-



United States' Chloe Dygert pedals during the women elite race at the road cycling World Championships in Harrogate, England, Sept. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

ity, but the 24-year-old will features the kind of punchy nonetheless join seven of his countrymen in contesting Sunday's race. It will That means names such as head toward Glasgow, where most of the events

climbs that favor the stars of the one-day classics.

begin in Edinburgh and Remco Evenepoel, Wout van Aert and Jasper Philipsen figure to be near the

fresh off plenty of Tour success will try to animate the race and perhaps catch the more powerful teams off guard.

"We have three leaders, with Wout and Jasper, who are to be conducted, and front, though a U.S. team are more for the sprint, and

there's me, who is capable of attacking from distance like last year," said Evenepoel, the reigning champion, after his recent victory at Clasica San Sebastian.

"It's just proof that my form is there," Evenepoel said of the win, "that I have the legs to be in front next

The men's road race, featuring many of the stars of last month's Tour, will surely be a centerpiece of the world championships. Here are some of the other key events, which will take place through August 13:

ROAD RACING

The Dutch team will be heavy favorites again in the women's road race and time trial, led by reigning world champion Annemiek van Vleuten, Demi Vollering and Marianne Vos. But the team was similarly favored at the Tokyo Olympics, only to lose track of an unheralded Austrian rider who dashed ahead of everyone to win the gold

Jimmie Johnson, crew chief Chad Knaus join Donnie Allison as **NASCAR Hall of Fame selections**

By STEVE REED **AP Sports Writer** CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Jimmie Johnson and former crew chief Chad Knaus, who combined to win a record-tying seven Cup Series championships, were selected for the NASCAR Hall of Fame on Wednesday.

They will be joined by longtime driver Donnie Allison, who was voted in on the pioneer ballot.

Johnson, 47, is considered one of the most successful race car drivers in history. The induction ceremony

for the Class of 2024 will be

held Jan. 19 in Charlotte.

Johnson's seven Cup Series titles tie him with Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt for the most in NASCAR history, and his run of five conchampionships from 2006 through 2010



Driver Jimmie Johnson poses outside Kentucky Speedway before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, July 12, 2020, in Sparta, Ky.

Associated Press

remain a series record. He also won titles in 2013 and 2016. Johnson's championships came amid an era of change for NASCAR, as he earned titles amid a variety of championship points formats and three different

generations of race cars. Nicknamed "Superman," Johnson had a knack for coming up big at NAS-CAR's biggest races, winning all of the sport's crown jewel events at least twice. He won the Daytona 500 in 2006 and 2013, four Brickyard 400s (2006, '08-09, '12), four Coca-Cola 600s (2003-05, '14), two Southern 500s (2004, '12) and four All-Star Races (2003, '06, '12-13). Johnson's 83 Cup wins rank sixth-most in NASCAR history behind Hall of Famers

Petty (200), David Pearson (105), Jeff Gordon (93), Darrell Waltrip and Bobby Allison (both 84), and they came at 20 different tracks. Knaus was with Johnson throughout that wildly successful run.

drick Motorsports as an assistant in the body shop, learning under Hall of Famer Ray Evernham as part of the "Rainbow Warriors."

In 2002, he was paired with Johnson, then a rookie, on a fourth Hendrick team, beginning one of the most productive partnerships in

sports history. Knaus, who currently serves as Hendrick Motorsports' vice president of competition, trails only Dale Inman and Leonard Wood for all-time wins by a crew chief.

Allison won 10 Cup Series races during his career.

The 83-year-old Allison was a member of NASCAR's famed "Alabama Gana" and an ambassador for the sport for more than 50 years. After winning the 1967 Cup Series rookie of the year, he partnered Knaus, 51, came to Hen- with mechanic Banjo Matthews and won three races in 1970, including the Coca-Cola 600.But Allison is perhaps best known for his role in one of NASCAR's most famous moments his 1979 Daytona 500 fight with Cale Yarborough during the sport's first nationally televised race.



Acuña, Riley and Olson homer for Braves, who hammer Angels 12-5 to take series

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The homers just keep coming for the Atlanta Braves, who have their sights set on being the most prolific power team in baseball history.

Ronald Acuña Jr., Austin Riley and Matt Olson went deep for the MLB-leading Braves, who cruised to a 12-5 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday.

Acuña launched a threerun shot over the centerfield wall off Lucas Giolito (6-8) in the third inning, then Riley and Olson went back to back in the fourth to cap a six-run outburst that finished off the Angels'



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. bats in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

starter.

"It's crazy," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "What these guys are doing is something else."

The Braves hit seven homers in taking two of three from the Angels, with the long ball accounting for 11 of their 18 runs. Through 106 games, Atlanta has 206 homers on pace for 315 for the season, which would best the major league record of 307 set by the 2019 Minnesota Twins.

"When you're trying to hit homers, the results don't come," Riley said. "I think guys are going up there and just trying to put up good at-bats. Guys are strong, and they aren't trying to do too much."

Yonny Chirinos (5-4), making his second start for the Braves since being acquired after Tampa Bay designated him for assignment, pitched five strong innings before being lifted after the first two batters singled in the sixth.

Chirinos wound up being charged with three runs after both runners came around to score against reliever Michael Tonkin, who could've escaped the jam but failed to touch the bag while covering first on a potential inning-ending double play.

"I'm extremely happy to be a member of this organization," Chirinos said through an interpreter. "I'm fortunate to have this offensive support. It gives you the confidence to attack hitters."

Giolito had a far worse outing in his second start for the Angels, who acquired him from the Chicago White Sox in one of several trades designed to boost Los Angeles' playoff hopes. He matched his career high by giving up nine earned runs in 3 2/3 innings. Acuña's 420-foot shot was his 25th homer of a historic season that has stamped him as the National League's MVP favorite.

He also reached on a single, double and a walk, coming around to score each time.

